



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

July 23, 2013

Sharon Mohammed
Newark Housing Authority
35 Riverview Court
Newark, NJ

RE: Terrell Homes
Maintenance activities in fenced area

Dear Ms. Mohammed,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) installed temporary chain link fencing around the former playground area and an adjacent grassy area that sits directly behind the Community Building and sprinkler pad to restrict access to these areas. The fencing was installed to restrict access to significantly elevated soil lead (Pb) concentrations present in the surface soils.

Children are a particularly at-risk population for soil Pb contamination because they are more sensitive to the effects of Pb than adults and engage in the type of behavior (mouthing activity) that increases the likelihood of incidental soil ingestion. Accordingly, the fencing is intended to prevent routine access to this area by young children. Pb is also hazardous to adults. However, a number of factors make adults a lower risk population. Adults with fully developed nervous systems are less sensitive to cognitive deficits (i.e., learning disabilities) that occur in children at low level Pb exposure. Additionally, adults are more acclimated to good hygiene (i.e., keeping hands clean) and less likely to engage in mouthing activity, thus reducing the potential for Pb exposure through incidental soil ingestion. Finally, adults absorb ingested Pb to a lesser extent than children. This is not to say that adults should not exercise caution when working in and around Pb contaminated soil, but, occasional maintenance in the fenced area can be performed safely by employing a few simple precautions.

Workers should take prudent measures to minimize direct contact with bare soil. Eating and/or smoking should not occur while working in the fenced area. Hands should be washed after completion of work activities. Any residual dirt/dust (especially from bottom of work boots) should be removed after completion of work activities.

If you have any questions regarding maintenance activities to be conducted in the fenced area, or any general questions about the Barth Smelting Site, please give me a call at (732) 452-6415.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Staiger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly Staiger
US EPA Region II
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837

cc: Mark Maddaloni, EPA
Will Reilly, EPA
Janet Abrahams, NHA
Arthur Martin, NHA